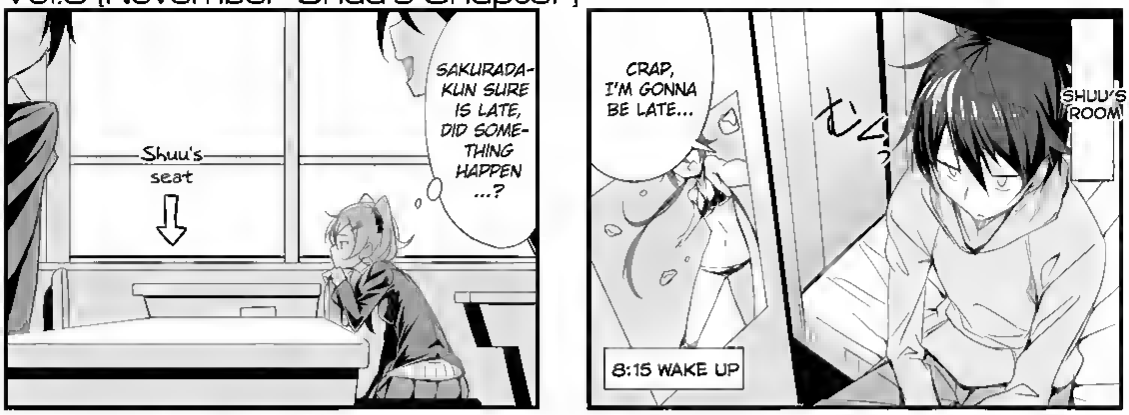
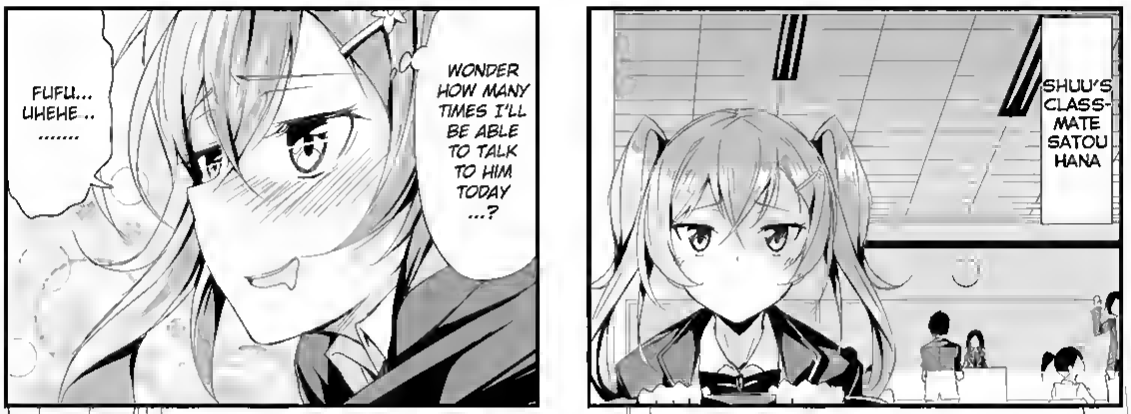
Vol.8 [November Shuu's Chapter]





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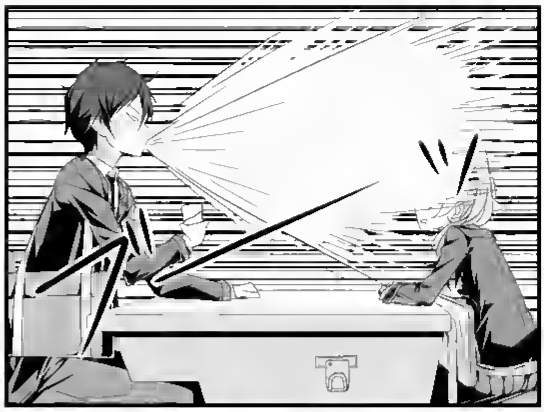
I REUNITED WITH SAKURADA-KUN BACK IN SPRING THIS YEAR.
ALMOST EVERYONE ENDED UP IN A DIFFERENT CLASS.



ICHIJOU HITOMI, CHILD-HOOD FRIEND THAT LIVES NEXT DOOR
AND ALSO
AH.
I'M WITH HITOMI-CHAN THIS YEAR
Thank goodness

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What's going on?
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Y-YEAH, I'M FINE.
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I-I'M SORRY SATOU! YOU OKAY!?
Your face appeared right in front of me!

YAMAMOTO-KUULIN. LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS THIS YEAR TOO!
EH, Y-YEAH I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!
U-UMMM...
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NONONONO!!
YAY ME... I GOT A CHANCE TO TALK WITH HIM ALREADY.
AND I LIKE MILK ANYWAYS.

IT'S SATOU ...
SUZUKI!!
Who's this?

COULD YOU BE MORE CAREFUL WITH YOUR WORDS!!?
SHUU!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING SPRAYING YOUR WHITE STUFF ON OUR HANA!?

SA-SAKU-RADA-KUN ...!?
WH-WH, WHY DO YOU KNOW MY...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHY?

THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE IN THE END...
I'M SO GLAD AT LEAST HITOMI-CHAN'S WITH ME...
SIGH...

WE'VE BEEN IN THE SAME CLASS BEFORE, RIGHT? BACK IN 4TH GRADE.

IT SEEMS I'VE HAD A WEAK PRESENCE EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE AND HAVE A HARD TIME REMAINING IN PEOPLE'S MEMORIES...
EVEN THOUGH I AM TRYING TO ASSERT MYSELF...

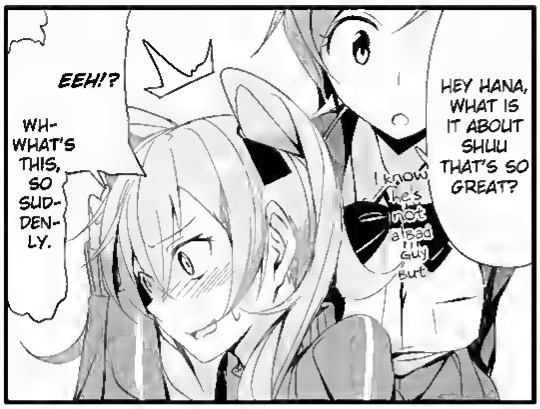
EH !? !? !?

OH, AREN'T YOU SATOU?
EH.

WHAT ARE YOU MAKING OUR HANA CRY FOR, SHUU!!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
A PRINCE ...!

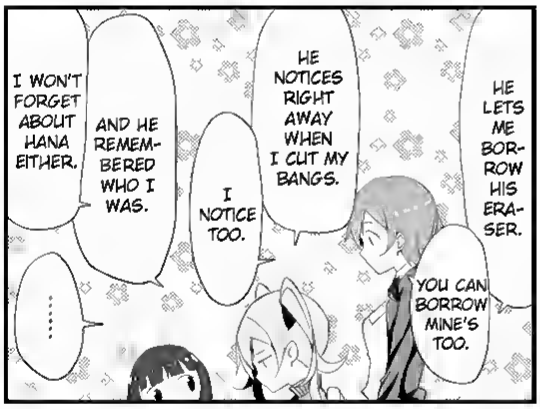
HANA.
SO YOU AND SHUU KNEW EACH OTHER.
EH? SATOU? BACK IN GRADE SCHOOL?
OH YEAH, I THINK THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOMEONE LIKE THAT ...
I'M AMAZED YOU STILL REMEMBER.
YEAH.
WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS ONCE LONG AGO...
THERE ARE TOO MANY WEIRDOS AROUND YOU.
OF COURSE I REMEMBER.
THERE ARE RARELY ANY GIRLS AS SIMPLE AS HER.
BUT I DIDN'T THINK HE'D REMEMBER ME...
I'll introduce you
BUT SHE LOOKS PRETTY REFINED NOW THOUGH.
WHAT?
EH, WH-WHAT?
HOW WONDERFUL.
I SEE ...
It's not what you think.
WHY ARE YOU GETTING UPSET ...?
THAT'S NOTHING BUT HER DRESSING UP FASHIONABLY LIKE A GIRL HER AGE. CAN'T YOU TELL? THERE'S THAT INCREDIBLY SIMPLE AURA LEAKING OUT OF HER


EEH!?
WH-WHAT'S THIS, SO SUDDENLY.
HEY HANA, WHAT IS IT ABOUT SHUU THAT'S SO GREAT?
I know he's not a bad guy but

SAKURADA-KUN WAS STARING AT ME SO MUCH...
WONDER IF HE THOUGHT I WAS WEIRD...

DOES SHE THINK SHE DODGED THE QUESTION?
AHAHAHA-KAHAHA!!!
I GUESS THAT'S ONE OF LOOKING AT IT. SAKURADA-KUN IS A NICE GUY AFTER ALL.
Was it sudden?
NO, YOU LIKE HIM, DON'T YOU?

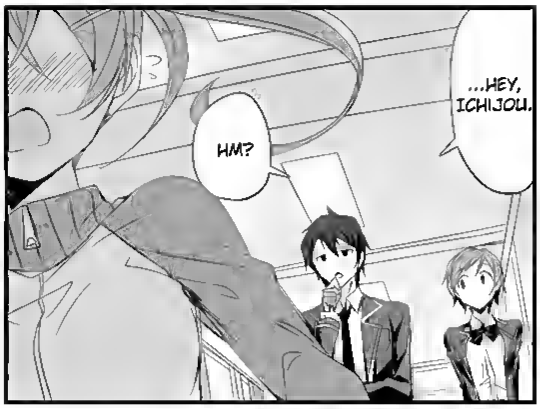
HIS SEAT IS RIGHT BEHIND YOUR'S, ISN'T IT?
IT'S KINDA LATE TO BE BOTHERED BY SOMETHING LIKE THAT...


I WON'T FORGET ABOUT HANA EITHER.
AND HE REMEMBERED WHO I WAS.
HE NOTICES RIGHT AWAY WHEN I CUT MY BANGS.
I NOTICE TOO.
HE LETS ME BORROW HIS ERASER.
YOU CAN BORROW MINE'S TOO.
.....

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT!!
AREN'T YOU IN HIS SIGHT ALL THROUGHOUT CLASS?

What about me?
DOES THAT MEAN YOU MIGHT NOT?
...I THINK I MIGHT LIKE HITOMI-CHAN...
I LIKE YOU.

HITOMI-CHAN, CAN WE CHANGE SEATS!?
I DON'T MIND.
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
EH, ON, ON SECOND THOUGHT, NEVER-MIND.


...HEY, ICHIJOU.
HM?

!?
NWAWA!?
There's...

IT FEELS LIKE SATOU IS ALWAYS DISTANT TOWARDS ME.
LIKE SHE AVOIDS LOOKING ME STRAIGHT IN THE EYES.

A-AHH... WHAT A RELAXING SMELL...
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU OKAY, SATOU?
GASP.

DOES SATOU THINK OF ME AS HARD TO DEAL WITH OR SOMETHING?
HM.

U-UM I'M SORRY... I TRIPPED ...
!? HOW COME!? I FEEL A MURDEROUS PRESSURE!! AND WITH SUCH AN INNOCENT FACE.

I GUESS SO.

A-ARE YOU HURT ...?
N-no.
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AFTER SCHOOL
MMN... I FEEL LIKE I'M FORGETTING SOMETHING IMPORTANT...
THERE HE IS! SAKURADA-KU...
HM...?
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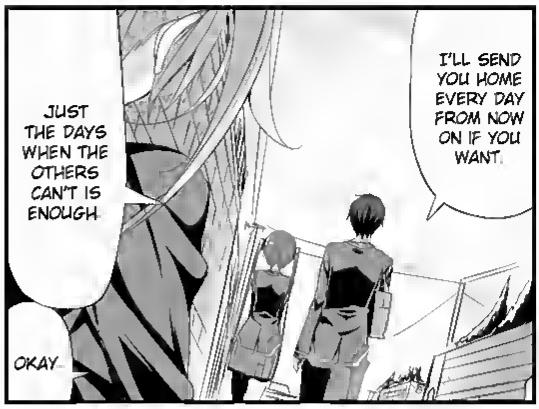
I WON'T FORGET ABOUT YOU, HANA.
THANKS, BUT NOT THAT.
YOU'RE LATE.
SORRY, MADE YOU WAIT.
THIS EMPTY FEELING IN MY CHEST...
I LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING CRUCIAL...
HMMM.....
Akane
WHO IS THAT—!?!?
AH!
I DIDN'T SAY GOOD-BYE TO SAKURADA-KUN!
THAT'S PRETTY SERIOUS.



WE'RE LIKE A SYMBOL TO THIS COUNTRY, THE CITIZENS WILL CONSTANTLY HAVE THEIR EYES ON US.
HAVE PRIDE AS PART OF THE ROYAL FAMILY AND FACE FORWARD.
.....

※SATOU DOESN'T NOTICE IT'S AKANE BECAUSE HER HAIRSTYLE IS DIFFERENT BECAUSE OF HER DEAL WITH SHUU.
G-GIRLFRIEND...? NO, I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE YET...
Stalking

※ REFER TO THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER 7.

AH, I'M GONNA LOSE SIGHT OF THEM!
I SEE YOU TWO ARE GETTING ALONG AS USUAL.
THEIR RELATION-SHIP'S EVEN RECOG-NIZED BY THE TOWNS PEOPLE?
HUH... I WAS SURE IT WAS THIS WAY.
I APO-LOGIZE, THIS GIRL DOESN'T KNOW ANY MANN-ERS.
DON'T SWEAT IT, I SHOULD BE THE ONE APOLO-GIZING FOR STOPPPING YOU.
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HAWA!?
I'LL BE GOING THEN.
YES, HAVE A NICE DAY.
A-AKANE !?
...HUH? SEN-PAI?
WE'RE BEING FOLLOW-ED.
YEAH.
WE'RE MAKING A TURN OVER THERE.

I'M SORRY, SATOU.
I SAID IT!
UM, THAT'S
SATOU... WHY WERE YOU FOLLOWING US?
IF I COULD, I'D ALSO LIKE TO ...
I'M REALLY HAPPY THAT YOU FEEL THAT WAY ...
WELL IT'S, YOU SEE...
WHAT IS IT? IS IT SOMETHING YOU CAN'T SAY?
... BUT
I WANT TO FOCUS ON THE ELECTION RIGHT NOW.
...YOU... SO.....
?
TELL ME, OTHERWISE, EVEN IF WE ARE CLASSMATES, I'LL HAVE TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURE DUE TO OUR POSITIONS...
YOU WERE!?!?
And you should come up with a different excuse even if it's a lie!
I'M BUSY TRYING TO SABOTAGE KANADE FROM BECOMING KING!!
. .YOU SERIOUS?
IS, IS IT OKAY FOR ME TO BE HERE?
I L-LIKE YOU, SAKURADA-KUN... SO... I GOT CURIOUS.

I CAN GO THE REST OF THE WAY FROM HERE ON MY OWN...
WH-WHY NOT WALK HER HOME FOR TODAY?
EH?
...THEN IS IT OKAY IF WE WAITED ...?
NO, IF IT'S JUST FOR TODAY...
I-I'LL BE OKAY, I SAID I'LL WAIT SO THERE'S NO POINT TO THAT IF I MAKE YOU TEND TO ME SO MUCH.
Y-YEAH... I GUESS.
I-IT'S FINE, REALLY!
SATOU... IT'S GOING TO BE AT LEAST ANOTHER TWO YEARS, YOU KNOW? I CAN'T MAKE YOU WAIT THAT...
CAN WE WAIT UNTIL THE ELECTION IS OVER?
AH! THERE'S A FLYING CAT!
Woah, there really is!!
What!?
I'M COMPLETELY OKAY WITH IT.
AH! WAIT, SATOU!!
S-SEE YA THEN, SAKURADA-KUN! AKANE TOO!
Y-YES.
ARE THEY FORGETTING THAT I'M HERE TOO?
I GOT IT! I PROMISE! I'LL DEFINITELY GIVE AN ANSWER TO SATOU'S FEELINGS!!

SATOU'S HOME.
WHAT'S WITH THAT SUDDEN DEVELOPE-MENT?

WELL, SHE WAS REALLY STUBBORN IN REFU-SING...
YOU CAN STILL GO AFTER HER FROM HERE.

WELL IF HANA'S FINE WITH THAT, THEN WHATEVER
EHEHEH...

AND YOU WERE FORCING YOURSELF TOO, SAYING YOU COULD GO BY YOURSELF.

ST-STOP IT, HITOMI-CHAN!
BUT SHUU, THAT BASTARD... SHOULD I BEAT SOME SENSE INTO HIM TOMORROW...?

I'M NOT REALLY ANGRY.
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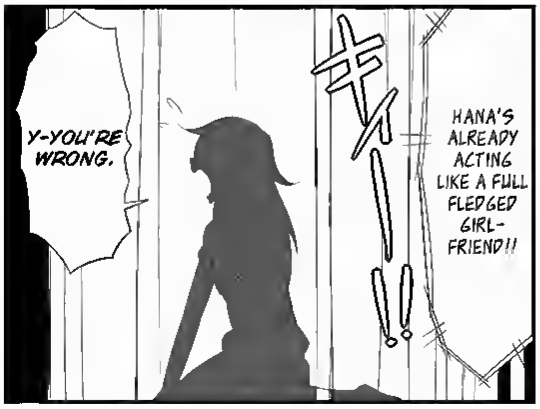
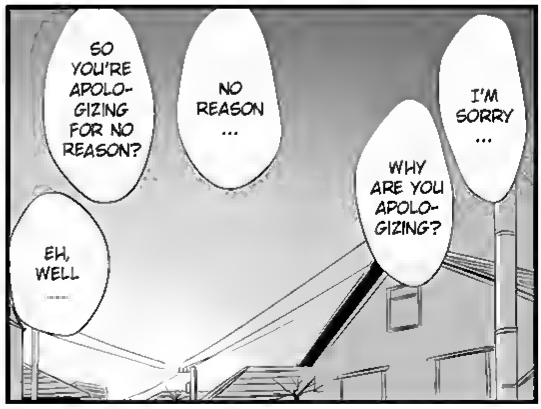
...H-HEY, WHAT ARE YOU SO ANGRY FOR?


Y-YOU'RE WRONG.
キィー!!
HANA'S ALREADY ACTING LIKE A FULL FLEDGED GIRL-FRIEND!!


SO YOU'RE APOLO-GIZING FOR NO REASON?
NO REASON ...
I'M SORRY ...
WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING?
EH, WELL ...

Sa-Satou..?
Can we
talk now?

I'm sorry about today. and also—
WALL